

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that the certified copy of the foreign priority document, German Patent Application 10036222.2 dated July 26, 2000, has been made of record in the file.

Claims 1-6 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for indicating that claim 3 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicant herein adds new claims 7-14. Support for new claims 7-14 can be found in the originally filed specification and claims. Entry and consideration of the new claims 7-14 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

1. Claims 1 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Tedenstig (U.S. Patent No. 6,307,859). Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 4, and insofar as the rejection might apply to new claims 8 and 11, for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant herein amends claim 1 with recitations similar to those of claim 3, which the Patent Office has indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant submit that claim 1 is now allowable over Tedenstig, and further submit that claim 4 is allowable as well, at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 102(e) rejection of claims 1 and 4.

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With respect to new claims 8 and 11, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well over Tedenstig for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 4.

2. Claims 2, 5 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tedenstig in view of Roorda *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,643,464). Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 2, 5 and 6, and insofar as the rejection might apply to new claims 7, 9, 10 and 12-14, for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claims 2, 5, 6 and new claim 7 depend from claim 1, and therefore incorporate all the recitations of claim 1 by virtue of their dependency. Since Applicant has amended claim 1 with recitations similar to those of claim 3, Applicants submits that claims 2 and 5-7 are allowable as well over the combination of Tedenstig and Roorda *et al.*, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 2, 5 and 6.

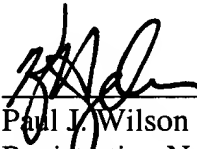
With respect to new claims 9, 10 and 12-14, Applicant submits that these claims are allowable as well over the combination of Tedenstig and Roorda *et al.* due to their dependency from claim 8.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The Patent Office objects to Figure 2 as having incorrect identifiers. Applicant herein amends Figure 2, and submits that the objection to the Drawings has been overcome.

Attachment: Six (6) Replacement Sheets